

Kessler, Ellen

From: w2938f-msg11@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2009 9:14 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Comment on public Scoping meeting: Hampton-Rochester-Lacrosse

I attended the Meeting June 18, 2009 at St. Charles Mn.

As per the Comment form:

Issues considered important:

- Visual, Proximity to residences, Land use, Radio-TV interference
- Project need
- Health and safety
 - I have recently seen an article from Europe proving the effects on cattle. The cattle and deer oriented per the power line and not according to normal earth magnetic field.

Key issues that should be addressed as impacts of project.

- I-221-001** - The effect of construction and the use of heavy equipment is an ongoing effect for a number (probably 5) years. One of the issues is ground subsoil compaction affecting plant growth.
- I-221-002** - The route should be along already established corridors for public facilities. The state guidelines establish this as a goal.
 - Access is already established and minimum impact is made on the community.
 - Minimum disturbance is made to land and peoples property
 - Property valuations already reflect this intrusion

Property owned in proposed corridor:

- Agricultural, Residential

Special uses or circumstances on property that should be considered.

- The proposed corridor runs on top of the highest ground in area.
 - This is prime positioning for future wind turbines. The line takes the only route that would be viable for turbines on this property. On adjoining property it would reduce the number of turbines for future use.

Project description, purpose, and need.

- I-221-003** - The claimed need was described, however
 - I learned from an outside source that recent electric use data was not used in the proposal. The recent data apparently does not support the need due to a drop in electric use.
 - Recent articles in IEEE (professional society) indicate that that there may be ways to maximize the use of existing transmission lines. This may make the need of the line a question.

Wayne Theel
7943 Collegeview Rd E

I-221-001

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts resulting from construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line will be addressed in resource sections throughout the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-221-002

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-221-003

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

Eyota, Mn 55934